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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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WATERFOWL BREEDING GROUND SURVEY PLANS COMPLETED

Plans for the annual waterfowl breeding ground surveys to be conducted in Canada, Alaska, and the United States this spring and summer by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the Canadian Wildlife Service, Provincial wildlife workers, State fish and game departments, Ducks Unlimited, and the Wildlife Management Institute were announced today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

The plans call for the collection of information that will serve as a basis for Canadian and United States officials in the drafting of appropriate regulations for the 1953-54 hunting season.

Designed to comply with the responsibilities of both countries under the International Migratory Bird Treaty, the plans outline a number of field projects that will provide as accurate a forecast as possible of the fall flights of ducks and geese.

Because full coverage of the continent's vast breeding grounds is not practical or economically feasible, the Service and cooperating agencies will use sampling methods statistically designed to bring forth the information needed.

Aerial and ground surveys are planned. Aerial surveys this spring will be used to give a broad picture of breeding pairs and water conditions. Similar surveys in the summer will produce information on the potential production of young birds and water conditions at that season. The ground surveys will be conducted to help judge the accuracy of the more extensive surveys, as well as to improve sampling techniques and to reveal fundamental facts concerning what it takes to produce waterfowl.

As large a sample as possible of young waterfowl will be banded during the breeding season in order that returns later on may indicate hunting pressures, mortality rates, and the distribution of birds to the several flyways.

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